UNITED
NATIONS

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United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development

Distr.
General

TD/B/EX(14)/2
4 March 1997

Original : ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Fourteenth executive session
Geneva, 24 March 1997
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

UNCTAD'S COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Extracts from "A Partnership for Growth and Development" (UNCTAD IX):

Para. 83: "UNCTAD, having a clear comparative advantage in tackling trade-related development issues, should continue to facilitate the integration of developing countries and countries in transition into the international trading system in a complementary manner with WTO, relevant institutions of the United Nations system and other international organizations".

Para.99: "UNCTAD should intensify its cooperation and coordination with WTO, ITC, relevant institutions of the United Nations system, other organizations and donor agencies, as well as with regional and subregional groupings, through formal arrangements and within existing mechanisms, as appropriate. This cooperation and coordination should aim to fully utilize existing capacities, create more synergies and avoid duplication, in order to optimize the impact of technical cooperation. It should also lead to a systematic exchange of information and best practices. Where appropriate, cooperation with the private sector, NGOs and the academic world should be sought."

GE.97-50536

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This note describes the manner in which UNCTAD seeks to strengthen cooperation with other organizations.

2. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD attaches great importance to this on-going endeavour. Since his appointment in September 1995 he has taken the lead in establishing formal ties with other relevant institutions, establishing a system of regular meetings at the Heads of Agency level, together with senior staff and encouraging a deepening of working-level cooperation on a day to day basis.

3. Within the secretariat, focal points have been established to ensure implementation of programmatic commitments. Ensuring effective oversight of collaborative programmes and monitoring relations with other bodies has been entrusted to a new office for Inter-Organizational Affairs and Technical Cooperation established as part of Executive Direction and Management.

4. The focus of this paper is on those international organizations with which UNCTAD is actively collaborating. Part II presents the manner in which the Secretary-General of UNCTAD approaches the issue of cooperation with other organizations and highlights from a thematic view point the scope for enhancing such cooperation in the next two-three years. Part III describes existing cooperation between UNCTAD and those international organizations with which UNCTAD has actively collaborated in recent years. Annex I is a list of selected formal cooperation agreements between UNCTAD and other international and regional organizations. Annex II provides details on cooperative arrangements with WTO, while Annex III contains the text of the recent agreement with UNIDO. Part III is a somewhat modified version of a document made available to delegations in 1996 in an informal note (UNCTAD/EDM/Misc.43). Comments provided thereon were helpful in preparing Part II of the present paper.

II. STRENGTHENING COOPERATIVE LINKS BETWEEN UNCTAD AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

5. The international system comprises a number of international organizations whose mandates and work programmes touch on similar issues. UNCTAD's specificity arises from its role as focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of development and inter-related issues in the areas of trade, finance, investment, technology, services and sustainable development.

6. These issues are multi-faceted and call for a holistic approach that goes beyond individual sectors to include their interactions and interlinkages. It therefore follows that cooperation with other organizations dealing with development issues from their own perspectives is essential for the effective functioning of UNCTAD and for its contribution to the work of the international system as a whole.

7. The legal basis for coordination and cooperation between UNCTAD and other organs and international organizations, whose activities are relevant to the

functions of UNCTAD, is provided by General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX) which established UNCTAD in 1964:

> In paragraph 18, the Board "shall, as required, make arrangements to obtain reports from and establish links with intergovernmental bodies whose activities are relevant to its functions. In order to avoid duplication it shall avail itself, whenever possible, of the relevant reports made to ECOSOC and other United Nations bodies".
>
> In paragraph 19, the Board "shall establish close and continuous links with the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and it may establish such links with other relevant regional intergovernmental bodies".
>
> In paragraph 20, the Board "in its relations with other organs and agencies within the United Nations system shall act in conformity with the responsibilities of ECOSOC under the Charter, particularly those of coordination, and with the relationship agreements with the agencies concerned".

8. The potential of these paragraphs could well be examined so as to promote cooperation and avoid duplication. They are also pertinent to the discussion of the place of UNCTAD in the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

9. The objective of coordination among organizations is to foster international cooperation so that member States benefit from the respective strengths of different organizations, each of which brings its own expertise and perspective to the problems at hand.

10. However, the means to this end are being widely discussed, as traditional modes of operation, patterns and practices are being challenged. Practically all parts of the system are undergoing change in one form or another. The system as a whole is requested to deliver more with less. And increasingly, member States judge performance not in terms of the system's individual components, but in terms of the impact of the system as a whole. They are seeking greater unity of purpose and coherence of action, and clear-cut, concrete results from its collective efforts.

11. A common thrust that emerges from current intergovernmental discussions and positions on reform is the perceived need for the organizations of the system to concentrate on core areas of competence, while at the same time, strengthening joint and collaborative actions. This is viewed as a way to maximize cost-effectiveness, make use of complementarities of respective organizations, and ensure that the system is able to address in an integrated manner the growing number of interrelated, global issues requiring comprehensive solutions. This is largely the approach that has been guiding ACC's work, which is placing renewed emphasis on clear delineations of responsibilities within the system on the one hand, and the launching of specific joint activities, that are result-oriented and time-bound, on the other.

12. At the inter-agency level, on-going measures to enhance programme complementarity needs to be accompanied by a renewed effort at identifying and focusing on common priority objectives and priority themes; developing joint

arrangements to respond to emerging requirements; and concerting overall policies and strategies. The strengthening of coordination at the country level is a key objective and measure of this effort.

13. Resource scarcities require organizations to be more focused and accountable in securing support and commitment from member states. Increased competition is leading organizations to hone their marketing skills, looking for "niche" and "competence" in determining their primary focus. Clear delineation of organizations' areas of competence, and identification of their respective comparative advantages is essential.

14. The challenge facing UNCTAD, as well as other agencies, is to demonstrate where its comparative advantage lies and focus on those activities where its contribution can be most effective. One such list of advantages accruing to UNCTAD with its universal membership, could include:

- over thirty years of experience in conceptualizing the development process and analysing the inter-relationship among issues that affect development without sectoral bias;

- a capacity to integrate intergovernmental deliberations, policy analysis by the secretariat and operational activities on specific subjects;

- a growing capacity to involve representatives of civil society in its work;

- its broad mandate yet relatively small size and flexible methods of work that facilitates attention to new and emerging issues; and

- a capacity to offer neutral advice on sensitive subjects (eg. Accession to WTO, or Paris Club negotiations).

15. The international community has acknowledged the important practice of examining issues that affect development from different vantage points. The need to safeguard the scope for independent thinking exists particularly in the field of global economic analysis, which constitutes an important part of UNCTAD's mandate. Over the years, member States acknowledged the value of this: for example at UNCTAD VIII the secretariat was asked to provide ".... concise, independent, even if controversial, analyses." At Midrand, it was requested to continue to analyze global interdependence issues from a development perspective.

16. Although many organizations undertake such analyses, each one does so from its own perspective. This freedom of expression should be maintained as it guarantees intellectual pluralism and the healthy competition of ideas. One should therefore distinguish between those areas (eg. collection of statistics) where the involvement of more than one organization would mean duplication and those where on the contrary, alternative views enrich the current international debate on economic and development issues.

17. Translating this distinction into operational guidelines represents a considerable challenge. It implies the need to find the right balance between, on the one hand, the responsibility of the secretariat to implement agreed

mandates and to inform member States thereon, and, on the other hand, its ability to carry out an analytical work programme with the necessary autonomy.

18. It is a fact that similar issues are discussed in various intergovernmental fora from differing perspectives. Consistency of action by member States, assisted by improved inter-secretariat coordination, would foster better system-wide action. This may best be achieved through efforts by member States to enhance coordination among the different departments in their own national administrations involved in international cooperation.

19. This is particularly important for UNCTAD whose multi-sectoral responsibilities call for cooperation at the national level with a wide range of organizations in both the public and private sectors. The nature and range of such cooperation, which encompasses issues such as participation in UNCTAD meetings, exchanges of views on analytical work and operational activities, often means that neither side is aware of the full extent of the collaboration between individual governments and the UNCTAD secretariat.

20. Exchanges of information, facilitated by the dramatic evolution of cost-effective information-related technologies, normally constitute the basis for effective cooperation. Exchange of information on relevant research and on technical cooperation activities and access to different data bases should all become part of the routine.

21. However, an efficient exchange of information is not in itself a guarantor of effective cooperation. Coordination takes time and resources, both of which have to be provided. Above all, effective coordination between organizations starting from different vantage points requires both sides to be willing partners and to agree to level the playing field as much as possible. Efforts by the UNCTAD secretariat to enhance cooperation with such and such an organization needs reciprocation for progress to be made.

Variety of cooperative mechanisms

22. A number of mechanisms are available to facilitate cooperation, it being understood that the specific mechanism should be adapted to substantive needs and circumstances. These can take the form of ad hoc inter-agency task forces, steering committees, exchange of letters, memorandum of understandings, agreements. Each Division examines the scope for cooperation with other organizations in the course of drawing up its programme of work for each biennium in the context of the Programme Budget exercise, and identifies specific organizations in the Budget document.

23. Joint research leading to co-publication is one such flexible mechanism. Joint technical cooperation activities is another, as examples in Part III demonstrate. Joint missions are also part of cooperative arrangements. As regards action at the country-level, UNCTAD will seek to make full use of the resident coordinator system established by the General Assembly. For all these issues, a step forward would consist in putting cooperative links on a more institutional basis, by involving the TDB as set out in para.19 of resolution 1995(XIX) (see paragraph 7 above).

24. A few examples of cooperative mechanisms presently in place can be mentioned:

(a) UNCTAD has drawn the attention of ACC to the outcome of UNCTAD IX and sought, as requested, **cooperative arrangements** for the implementation of the Midrand Declaration.

(b) For example, the **joint ITC/UNCTAD/WTO programme** of assistance to African countries on the follow-up to the Uruguay Round was launched at UNCTAD IX.

(c) In a directly related area, UNCTAD is **lead agency** for the organization of the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa's section on trade access and opportunities. UNCTAD is also a **contributing agency** in the areas of harnessing information technology for development, the partnership with Africa through South-South cooperation, and debt.

(d) UNCTAD has responsibility for the implementation of **system-wide initiatives** such as the Programme of Action on LDC's, including the Global Mid-Term Review.

(e) In the process of the implementation of Agenda 21, UNCTAD acts as **task manager** for trade and environment. It participates actively in the Inter-agency Committee for Sustainable Development and for the presentations for the 1997 Special Session of the General Assembly to review implementation of the 1992 UNCED.

(f) A **cooperation agreement** was signed between UNCTAD and UNIDO in July 1996 (see Annex III), launching, inter alia, a joint programme designed to help African countries improve the environment for investment flows.

(g) An **inter-agency Task force** on trade efficiency comprising UNCTAD, ITC and ECE meets bi-monthly. UNCTAD and the ECE have established a joint Task force on Enterprise-Related issues in economies in transition.

(h) UNCTAD is following-up the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SID). UNCTAD and DPCSD are involved in an **inter-agency process to prepare joint background documentation** for the next High Level Segment of ECOSOC in 1997.

(i) UNCTAD participates in the ACC **Task Forces** dealing with the enabling environment for social and economic development, as well as employment and sustainable livelihoods, established by ACC to monitor and ensure follow-up action in the implementation of the results of the thematic United Nations Conferences.

(j) In 1983, UNCTAD and IMO signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** setting out areas of cooperation. A **joint UNCTAD/IMO Intergovernmental Group of Experts** was further established and meets annually.

Development of cooperative arrangements in selected areas

25. Before discussing the development of cooperative arrangements in selected areas according to UNCTAD's areas of competence and priorities, it is useful to recall the objectives agreed at UNCTAD IX:

(a) to enhance the ability of developing countries to expand and diversify their trade, to meet their multilateral obligations, to understand and take advantage of their rights in the multilateral trading system and to pursue their development objectives;

(b) to strengthen the ability of developing countries to attract foreign investment and develop enterprises capabilities and a technological base to strengthen their production and export capacity;

(c) to increase the capacities of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to reap the benefits of globalization;

(d) to generate trade-supporting services in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and the countries in transition, especially for informal sectors and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, so as to increase trade efficiency;

(e) to contribute to policy formulation at the national level, in particular, creating an overall enabling environment at a policy and institutional level for developing countries through technical support and cooperation; and

(f) to increase capacities of enterprises in adapting their products and their marketing approaches in the post-Uruguay Round era.

(g) to identify policies to favour technological capacity-building innovation and technology flows to developing countries.

26. **Globalization and development strategies**. One of the salient features in the evolution of the cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs) is that member States have increasingly called upon the financial and trading institutions (IMF, World Bank, WTO and UNCTAD) to cooperate in the preparation for intergovernmental meetings, particularly in the framework of the high-level policy dialogues of ECOSOC. Over the years these relationships have been fruitful. Consultations at all levels, and many collaborative activities on substantive matters of mutual concern have been maintained. Discussions in UNCTAD about international cooperation for development should aim at promoting constructive approaches and at generating impulses for consideration by the Bretton Woods Institutions.

27. Similarly these institutions should provide substantive inputs to United Nations undertakings and take fully into account the outcome of events such as UNCED, the Social Summit, UNCTAD IX and other Conferences in their own activities as decisions by Governments which are part of their own membership.

28. Considerable scope exists for strengthening arrangements for consultations and exchanges between UNCTAD and the Bretton Woods institutions. Existing

practices as regards reciprocal representation at meetings could be enhanced and UNCTAD should participate on a regular basis in meetings on development and broad international financial and monetary issues organized by BWI. UNCTAD and the BWIs should regularly exchange information on the latest research projects undertaken by each organization.

29. There is at present no intergovernmental body systematically addressing the task of ensuring coherent and mutually reinforcing approaches in policies in key economic areas, particularly those having large impact on the world economy. Experience shows that policy inconsistencies are apt to appear in a number of key policy areas. Closer cooperation between the United Nations and the BWI will contribute to the achievement of coherence in global economic policy making, including through the annual high-level segment of ECOSOC.

30. The BWIs are involved in numerous UNCTAD technical cooperation activities, as both a cooperating partner and as the source of financial support (see Part III, and the annual report on technical cooperation). Further consideration will be given on ways in which UNCTAD/ITC/WTO programme of technical assistance for Africa - on implementation of the Uruguay Round - could mesh with World Bank country-level programmes in Africa.

31. The first of an intended series of regular meetings between the World Bank and UNCTAD took place in Geneva in October 1996, covering both cooperation on research issues and operational activities. Agreement was reached to put the two organizations' ad hoc cooperation on to a more institutional footing. Agreement was also reached on the sharing of research at the draft stage in selected areas and on frequent exchanges of information concerning topics covered by upcoming publications. It is expected that the next meeting will take place in Washington in the first part of 1997.

32. **International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities.** New and expanded cooperation between UNCTAD and WTO is under way in the framework of the global arrangement for relations between the United Nations and the WTO. Such cooperation is based on their complementary functions which have been particularly emphasized in the final document of UNCTAD IX. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director-General of the WTO agreed : (a) to hold meetings, chaired jointly by them, every six months; (b) to improve the working relationship between the two organizations at all levels in such areas as research, trade and investment, trade and competition, trade and environment, and trade and development; and (c) to work for greater complementarity in technical cooperation- not only between UNCTAD, the WTO and ITC, but also with other agencies, whether in the UN system , the BWIs, or regional bodies - in order to improve coordination across the board and make better use of resources. They also stressed their complete agreement on the high priority that must be given to Africa in the cooperative work of the two organizations. (see Part III for description of activities).

33. Another privileged relationship is with ITC, with whom the major joint work programme is mentioned in paragraph 25 (b) above; the pace of this work has increased significantly in recent months and is scheduled to continue through 1997 and beyond.(see Part III).

34. **Investment, enterprise development and technology.** Cooperation with relevant organizations in the area of investment and related issues is also important to

the UNCTAD IX objectives cited above. Following the April 1996 agreement, the executive heads of UNCTAD and UNIDO signed in July 1996 a communique launching a joint programme to help African countries improve the environment for investment flows and transfer of technology and strengthen their business capacities. The agreement aims at strengthening the complementarity between the two organizations by focusing on science and technology, investment promotion and enterprise development, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. By pooling their resources, UNIDO and UNCTAD intend to improve coordination for more effective technical assistance in promoting industrial development and integrating developing countries into the world trading system. UNIDO and UNCTAD are scheduled to hold their next annual meeting in Geneva in July 1997 to review progress and identify areas for new cooperative initiatives. UNCTAD has also contributed to the launching of UNIDO's "Alliance for Africa's Industrialization".

35. The first meeting, in January 1997, of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, stressed the importance of UNCTAD working in close cooperation with other UN agencies and international organizations in the implementation of its work programme related to an enterprise development strategy and requested the secretariat to provide a report on the extend of this cooperation.

36. **Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency.** The nature of work carried out by UNCTAD in the area of trade efficiency and related measures naturally calls for close collaboration with other organizations. The recently held first session of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development was an opportunity to demonstrate the excellent cooperative links existing between UNCTAD, ITC, ECE, and ITU on these issues. Cooperation with ITC, ECE and ITU will need to be pursued and strengthened. Cooperation with ITU will continue, in particular in preparation for the UNCTAD expert meeting on telecommunications and trade to be held in September 1997 in combination with the ITU Telecom-Interactive meeting.

37. A full report on cooperation between UNCTAD, ITC, ECE and ITU has been requested by the Commission in its agreed conclusions.

38. UNCTAD will offer, as requested in the Singapore Ministerial Declaration of the WTO, analytical and practical contributions to assist WTO discussions on "trade facilitation". This collaboration will also draw upon UNCTAD's cooperation with the World Customs Organization, based on the existing and highly successful coordination on the ASYCUDA programme. A coordinated approach among the three organizations would be particularly useful in the area of customs reform and standardisation, leading to a significant reduction in international trade transactions costs. The initial meeting on the subject was held in February 1997.

39. **Least Developed Countries.** The Singapore Ministerial Declaration called on UNCTAD, the ITC and the WTO to hold an High-Level Meeting on LDCs, with the support from the BWI as well as the regional economic commissions, at an early date in 1997. This meeting, which is provisionally scheduled for the end of June, will be an additional opportunity for pulling together the acquired expertise and for achieving complementarities among the several organizations involved in trade support for LDCs.

40. The Board, at its 43rd session, invited the Secretary-General to consider launching integrated country programmes on trade and investment for selected least developed countries. The programmes will focus on developing export supply capacities. This exercise is now underway, on the basis of extra-budgetary resources provided through the recently operational LDC trust fund. It is expected that the results of the programming exercises will be fed into UNDP round tables and World Bank Consultative Group meetings in accordance with para.26 part III of General Assembly resolution 51/167 on Trade and Development which called for UNCTAD's cooperation with country-level aid coordination exercises.

III. DESCRIPTION OF UNCTAD's COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

(i) Major multilateral organizations active in trade, finance and development

41. Under institutional arrangements now in effect, the framework for cooperation with the following organizations active in the fields of trade, finance and development is shaped by overriding demands to set priorities, exploit comparative advantages and create synergies with UNCTAD wherever possible.

42. **World Trade Organization (WTO).** UNCTAD/WTO cooperation is particularly focused on (i) analysis of the developmental implications of the Uruguay Round; (ii) trade-related development prospects of Africa; (iii) trade and environment issues; and (iv) assistance to countries acceding to the WTO. Activities on (i) began with the joint paper produced for UNCTAD IX (TD/375) and are currently focused on a joint analysis of the developmental implications of the tariff peaks and tariff escalation left over from the UR, scheduled to be completed in early spring of 1997. Activities on (ii) began with the joint UNCTAD/WTO/ITC programme of technical cooperation launched at UNCTAD IX, which has to date resulted in eight country missions and reports, with four more scheduled for 1997. Each agency took the lead for certain of these country missions, but all were heavily involved in each. Activities on (iii) began with the creation of the WTO (then GATT)'s CTE, which has drawn heavily on studies produced by UNCTAD in the context of the AHWG on Trade and Environment. Activities on (iv) involve regular joint participation of UNCTAD and WTO staff members in technical cooperation events (seminars, workshops, advisory missions, etc.) organized by UNCTAD or other organizations for countries which are acceding to the WTO or planning to begin the accession process in the near future.

43. After the first WTO Ministerial Conference in Singapore (December 1996) in accordance with specific provisions of its Ministerial Declaration referring to the WTO/UNCTAD cooperation and the Midrand final document, the following may also be considered as priorities in 1997 and beyond:

- implementation of the WTO Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted by the Singapore Ministerial Conference, and in particular organization of a meeting in 1997 with the participation of aid agencies, multilateral financial institutions and the least developed countries to foster an integrated approach to assisting these countries in enhancing their trading opportunities;

- assistance to developing countries, in coordination with WTO, in accessing date on trade in services,

- trade and investment; trade and competition policy.

44. To date, two formal and several informal meetings have taken place between the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director-General of the WTO, together with their respective staffs. Mr. Ricupero has addressed the WTO's Committee on Trade and Development, while Mr. Ruggiero spoke at UNCTAD IX in May, 1996. His address in October 1996 to a plenary session of the Trade and Development Board was the first by the Head of WTO or GATT. At UNCTAD IX, WTO and UNCTAD presented a joint paper on strengthening developing countries' capacities for participating in the multilateral trading system. Agreement was announced there on an integrated programme, together with ITC, of technical assistance for Africa. So far, joint missions have been sent to eight African countries. Oversight mechanisms to ensure appropriate follow-up are in place. At the working level, close relations have been established in many areas. UNCTAD attended 145 WTO meetings in the first 10 months of 1996. Cooperation in the areas of investment and competition policies is particularly well established. For instance, the WTO assisted in the preparation of the 1996 World Investment Report. (For further details and texts of relevant statements, see Annex II).

45. **International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO(ITC).** Trade efficiency is a major area of cooperation: an inter-agency task force comprising UNCTAD, ITC, and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) meets bimonthly. In October 1994, ITC and ECE actively participated in the UNCTAD-organized United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency (UNISTE) in Columbus, Ohio (United States of America) and in the Trade Efficiency Symposium at Midrand, South Africa, in May 1996. The UNISTE guidelines on Business Practices and Trade Facilitation were prepared in cooperation with ECE; those on Business Information for Trade were prepared by ITC. The trade efficiency-related roles of the three organizations are as follows: ECE develops trade facilitation standards and recommendations for reducing and automating procedures and paperwork. ITC develops programmes and training in trade information for developing countries. UNCTAD provides delivery mechanisms and assistance for the "products" developed by ECE and ITC as well as technical advice in trade areas not covered by the other two organizations and overall coordination of the Global Trade Point Network (GTPNet). In addition, efforts are being made to strengthen collaboration with ITC in other areas, including training and human resource development (associated in part with the UNCTAD TRAINFORTRADE programme), enterprise development, and capacity building for trade policy and trade promotion policy and implementation. Several ongoing and planned technical assistance projects in these areas are either executed jointly or contain modules executed by the other agency. Trade finance work by the two organizations is coordinated. Joint work on the development of commodity exchanges has also taken place and information is exchanged on a number of topics, including commodities.

46. **World Bank.** The Bank is involved in numerous UNCTAD technical cooperation activities. In the area of debt management, the Bank supports the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) through a joint programme. The installation of DMFAS in a number of countries is financed out of Bank trust funds and by Bank borrowers. Borrowers are using loans/credits for the installation of UNCTAD's Advance Cargo Tracking System (ACIS) and its specialized customs automation software (ASYCUDA). The Bank draws on UNCTAD's expertise in multimodal transport

and a joint publication has been issued containing guidelines on trade and transport logistic in Africa. The Bank also uses data from the UNCTAD Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS), and recently requested and financed special work to be undertaken on trade control measures. Together with the Bank, UNCTAD is handling a UNDP-funded technical cooperation project on the Expansion of Foreign Direct Investment and Trade in Services (EFDITS). Collaboration is already well established in the trade data and commodity risk-management fields through, for instance, facilitating the establishment of commodity exchanges. The Bank also supports UNCTAD's work on environmental aspects of corporate financial accounting. In addition, UNCTAD has recently joined the World Bank's Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP).

47. In the field of risk management, UNCTAD has been working closely with the World Bank for several years; a joint UNCTAD-World Bank paper on risk management in India was published as part of this cooperation in 1996 and joint work is continuing in other regions, especially Africa. Risk management work has also involved cooperation with numerous regulatory and private-sector bodies involved in risk management, including the US Commodity Futures and Trading Commission and various commodity exchanges in developed and developing countries and countries in transition. These forms of cooperation are expected to intensify in view of the increasing level of demand for assistance from UNCTAD in this area.

48. **International Monetary Fund (IMF).** UNCTAD is closely cooperating with the IMF in the area of customs. The Fund supports the reform and modernization of customs and in that context has financed several UNCTAD ASYCUDA projects as well as numerous missions. Recently, the Government of Viet Nam, through the Fund, has requested UNCTAD to provide debt management services. Since 1975, UNCTAD has provided technical support to the Group of 24, mostly in the form of research papers on international monetary and financial issues under discussion in the IMF and the World Bank.

49. **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).** Cooperation between UNDP and UNCTAD takes a variety of forms. Notwithstanding the decline in UNDP's share of UNCTAD's technical cooperation funds, it remains a major source of support for operational activities at the country, regional and interregional level. In addition, UNDP Resident Representatives act on behalf of UNCTAD as regards technical cooperation at the country level. In their capacity as Resident Coordinators, they undertake an important role on behalf of the United Nations system, including UNCTAD, for the promotion of economic and social development. At the most recent session of the Board, delegations encouraged greater collaboration between UNDP and UNCTAD. In response to a direct proposal from the UNDP Administrator for a joint UNDP/UNCTAD programme, the UNCTAD secretariat is preparing a set of activities for financing out of UNDP Special Programme Resources on policy-related work that enhances the trade and investment dimension of sustainable human development and poverty alleviation, - priorities of UNDP.

50. Cooperation with UNIDO is described in Part II above paragraph 35.

(ii) <u>Other United Nations system organizations</u>

United Nations Secretariat in New York:

51. **Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD).** UNCTAD has been working closely with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development

(CSD) in the area of promoting the integration of trade, environment and development. Upon the invitation of the CSD at its third session, the analytical study on the relationship of environmental protection to international competitiveness, job creating and development is being further elaborated for the fifth session of the Commission in April 1997. In this connection also, as part of the work on market access, the secretariat's collection and dissemination of information on trade-related environmental issues will be continued. The CSD at its fourth session invited UNCTAD to examine how further trade liberalization can result in environmental benefits and contribute to sustainable development. In this regard the focus will be on sectors and products of particular export interest to developing countries.

52. At its fourth session, the Commission on Sustainable Development, which is serviced by DPCSD, invited UNCTAD and UNEP to examine the relationship between trade, competition, and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Currently UNCTAD is cooperating with DPCSD in preparation for the UNCED review conference in June 1997, to be known as "Rio + 5." In the process of implementation of Agenda 21, UNCTAD acts as task manager for trade and environment. In accordance with para. 113 and 114 of the Barbados Programme of Action, GA resolution 50/116, CSD Decision 4/16 and GA resolution 51/183 UNCTAD cooperates with DPCSD in preparing an expert group meeting to advise the UN on the construction of a multi-dimensional vulnerability indicator for small island developing states (SIDs). This primarily involves the preparation of a joint paper, to be complemented by an UNCTAD technical paper on economic/trade dimension indicator. This is closely related to UNCTAD's ongoing work on a trade efficiency assessment, as trade efficiency criteria will be introduced in the indicator. Also in the context of Agenda 21, UNCTAD contributes on a regular basis to DPCSD in the areas of financial resources and technology transfer. On other matters, UNCTAD and DPCSD are currently involved in an inter-agency process to prepare joint background documentation for the next High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1997.

53. **Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA).** UNCTAD and DESIPA are closely cooperating on a number of issues dealing with macroeconomics. A good informal network of research collaboration exists. UNCTAD benefits from DESIPA's capacities in economic forecasting (Project LINK). DESIPA frequently draws on UNCTAD's expertise in the areas of trade and investment. UNCTAD is a user of the data collected by the Statistical Division of DESIPA, which is the central service unit of the United Nations for collecting and processing statistics. UNCTAD provides inputs to annual reports prepared under the leadership of DESIPA to the Second Committee of the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council (recurrent reports: external debt, net flows and transfer of resources between developing and developed countries, global financial integration, and integration of economies in transition into the world economy; non-recurrent publications: various, depending upon the agenda).

54. **Department of Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS).** UNCTAD and DDSMS are cooperating closely in EMPRETEC--a United Nations programme on entrepreneurship and business development, whose mandate is split between the two organizations. The cooperation allows for a joint Steering Committee to review the over-all progress and implementation of the programme; monitoring and evaluation at the country level are carried out by each organization on projects for which it is responsible.

55. **United Nations Office for Project Services (OPS).** The OPS frequently requests UNCTAD to provide certain specialized technical cooperation services in UNCTAD's areas of competence.

Regional Commission

56. UNCTAD has increased its joint activities with the regional commissions in the recent period, and envisages further scope for the strengthening of these relationships at both the conceptual and practical levels. Earlier this year, an independent study on relations between UNCTAD and the regional commissions, conducted on behalf of United Nations Headquarters, concluded that there was little ground for concern over the duplication of functions. UNCTAD currently has joint units in ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA and ESCWA[1]. Created in 1975 between the then Centre for Transnational Corporations (now part of UNCTAD's Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development) and the regional commissions, these joint units support member States and subregional institutions on matters relating to foreign direct investment and enterprise development. Activities include country studies on the impact of foreign investment and foreign affiliates on industrial restructuring and development and regional inputs to the preparation and dissemination of the World Investment Report, the World Investment Directory, and the Investment Policy Reviews. The future of the joint units is under discussion.

57. **Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).** UNCTAD/ECA cooperation derives largely from the implementation of the special programmes on Africa that originate from the General Assembly, particularly Programme 45 and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) as well as the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa. UNCTAD cooperates closely with the ECA in preparing the Secretary-General's reports to the General Assembly on the progress of the implementation of the programme in the context of an Inter-Agency Task Force. UNCTAD and ECA have jointly organized several events including the 1994 Conference of African Trade Ministers whose objective was to assess the impact of the Uruguay Round on African economies and to identify the necessary technical assistance. UNCTAD and ECA have had a close cooperation for many years in the area of maritime transport and shipping. Cooperation took place on two UNDP-financed regional projects for Port Management Information Systems as well as on the Human Resource and Institutional Development project, again financed by UNDP. Cooperation is on-going in the implementation of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa (UNTACDA II). In this context UNCTAD is a member of the Advisory Committee on Programme Promotion and has been asked to contribute to the preparation of the conference of African Ministers of Transport convened by ECA in Cairo in November 1997.

58. **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).** ECLAC and UNCTAD are full participants in the LATINTRADE Programme (an interagency effort to provide Latin American and Caribbean countries with technical cooperation and support for their participation in the new international trading system centred in the WTO) along with other regional organizations (SELA) and integration secretariats (ALADI, SIECA, JUNAC, CARICOM). An UNCTAD workshop on "Poverty Alleviation through International Trade" was hosted by ECLAC. In the area of transport, UNCTAD increased its cooperation with ECLAC at the end of 1994 by

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1. The joint unit in ECE was discontinued in 1994.

associating ECLAC to its Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS) programme. ECLAC coordinates all ACIS interventions in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the area of maritime legislation, the first delivery of the Regional Colloquia on Charter Parties (part of an educational programme requested by the former Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors) was organized by ECLAC.

59. **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).** Extensive cooperation has taken place with ESCAP in many fields, including trade and investment, trade efficiency, transport, shipping, privatization, and poverty alleviation. UNCTAD collaborates with ESCAP (as well as WIPO, ITC, and the World Bank) in the UNDP-financed Asia Programme on Trade and Investment during the fifth cycle (1992-97). UNCTAD has responsibility for the trade policy component. Past collaboration has largely comprised regional seminars and workshops on a range of topics, including post-Uruguay Round issues. A recent example is the joint ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP seminar for senior officials from ESCAP member states in preparation for the Singapore Ministerial Meeting of the WTO. Collaboration in the area of trade efficiency was facilitated by the initial location of UNCTAD's Trade Point Development Centre (UNTPDC) in Bangkok. ESCAP is using the well-visited UNTPDC World Wide Web site to promote its Regional Investment Information and Promotion Service (RIIPS). There has been close cooperation with ESCAP in the area of transport and shipping for many years, starting in ports and expanding to freight forwarding, multimodal transport (MT) and Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). In addition to carrying out MT workshops, ESCAP and UNCTAD are jointly executing technical assistance projects in the area of transport logistics, MT, and human resource development.

60. **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).** Consultations took place between the two secretariats in the field of technical cooperation after an exchange of visits by the heads of the two organizations earlier this year. At the invitation of UNCTAD, the ESCWA secretariat presented a paper to the international symposium on the evaluation of the implications of the Uruguay Round for Arab countries (Casablanca, November 1994). A multimodal transport workshop was carried out in cooperation with ESCWA in 1994, joint TRAINMAR training exercises have been conducted and a joint trade facilitation project is under consideration. In March 1996, ESCWA participated in the UNCTAD-UNDP Symposium in Bahrain on the implications of the Uruguay Round on the Arab Economies. This was closely followed by a joint UNCTAD/ESCWA conference (in cooperation with WTO, ITC, and the League of Arab States) for the Gulf countries on WTO-related issues. At this time, senior officials from ESCWA, UNCTAD, ITC, UNDP, the League of Arab States, the Arab Monetary Fund, and the Arab Trade Financing Programme attended a Steering Committee meeting to discuss UNCTAD's comprehensive technical cooperation programme for Arab countries.

61. **Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).** As described above, UNCTAD, ITC, and ECE cooperate closely in the area of trade efficiency. There is also extensive cooperation as regards trade and transport issues, including cooperation on rehabilitation of trade among the CIS countries and improving transport and transit-transport in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Together with ECE, UNCTAD has cooperated in the preparation of a Transport Glossary with Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Communities) and the ECMT (European Conference of Ministers of Transport). UNCTAD also cooperates with the ECE in the dissemination of the international port codes from the LOCODE (location codes) database. UNCTAD regularly attends ECE meetings organized by its Transport Division, and helped organize two seminars on containerization. In the first ten

months of 1996, UNCTAD was represented at over 25 ECE meetings in areas including transport, environment and economics, trade facilitation, industry, and science and technology.

Other United Nations organizations

62. **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).** UNCTAD and UNEP are implementing a joint programme of work on trade, environment and development in accordance with paragraph 59 of Chapter I of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its third session and paragraph 14 of General Assembly Resolution 50/95 of 20 December 1995. UNCTAD and UNEP have been cooperating on issues such as criteria for the use of trade measures in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and the concepts of equivalency and mutual recognition in the context of eco-labelling. UNCTAD and UNEP have co-hosted three High-Level Ministerial Round Table Meetings on Environment, Trade and Sustainable Development. The last one took place in Geneva at the end of September 1996, as a contribution to the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Singapore. Joint technical assistance includes policy-oriented studies, workshops and seminars, the provision of information and training/capacity building seminars.

63. As a consequence of UNCTAD's responsibility as Task Manager for Trade and Environment for the UN system as a whole, joint work is also carried out with UNEP. In recent past, this has focused on (i)case studies for empirical evidence regarding (a) the impact of trade policies on environment (and vice versa) and (b) practical methods of implementing the internalisation of environmental costs and benefits; and (ii) the organization of ministerial meetings on trade, environment and development, of which three have been held so far, the latest in September 1996. It is expected that joint analytical work with UNEP will continue in the foreseeable future.

64. **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO):** FAO contributed to UNCTAD's former Standing Committee on Commodities in the session examining the impact of the Uruguay Round and UNCTAD participated in the World Food Summit in November 1996. There is also considerable working-level cooperation between the two organizations.

65. **International Labour Organization (ILO).** There was intensive cooperation with ILO in the preparation of the World Investment Report 1994: Transnational Corporations, Employment and the Workplace. In the near future, UNCTAD plans to strengthen cooperation with ILO, particularly with its Enterprise and Cooperative Development Department in the area of micro-enterprise finance and training.

66. **International Maritime Organization (IMO).** Cooperation between UNCTAD and IMO has a long history. It was officialized in 1983 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding setting out areas of cooperation and delineation of responsibilities. A joint UNCTAD/IMO Intergovernmental Group of Experts was established dealing in particular with maritime liens and mortgages and related subjects. After having prepared the text of the draft International Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages (1993) which was then adopted by the UN/IMO Conference of Plenipotentiaries, the joint Group is currently working on the revision of the 1952 International Convention on Arrest of Ships. In addition, there is cooperation in areas such as technical assistance, human resource development and ports. Matters related to commercial aspects of maritime transport are usually subcontracted to UNCTAD and vice versa in cases of technical issues. At its last

session, held in December 1996, the joint UNCTAD/IMO Group of Experts successfully completed its work, having prepared a set of draft articles for a revised Convention on Arrest of Ships. Upon completion of its work, the Joint Group recommended "to the IMO Council and to the TDB of UNCTAD that they consider favourably, on the basis of the useful work done so far, proposing to the General Assembly of the UN the convening of a diplomatic conference to consider and adopt a convention on certain rules relating to the arrest of ships on the basis of the draft articles for a convention prepared by the Group of Experts".

67. **International Telecommunications Union (ITU).** In accordance with paragraph 94 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development", discussions are expected to take place with ITU on cooperation in assessing the practical trade implications of the emerging Global Information Infrastructure (GII) and identifying relevant avenues for action in this area.

68. **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).** At the request of the Director General of WIPO, in August 1996, UNCTAD released its study on the financial and other implications of the implementation of the TRIPS (trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights) agreement for developing countries.

(iii) Information sharing and coordination within the United Nations system

69. **Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).** The ACC is charged with providing impetus and direction to the work of the system within the policy guidance provided by the intergovernmental organs. It is composed of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Heads of the specialized agencies as well as of those of the United Nations Programmes established by the General Assembly under Article 22 of the Charter, including UNCTAD. Its main function is to ensure the coordination of the programmes approved by the various bodies of the United Nations system, and, more generally, promote cooperation within the system in pursuit of the common goals of Member States.

70. UNCTAD is lead organization for the implementation of the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa's section on trade access and opportunities. UNCTAD is also a contributing agency in the areas of harnessing information technology for development, the partnership with Africa through South-South cooperation, and debt. UNCTAD participates in the ACC Task Forces dealing with the enabling environment for social and economic development, as well as employment and sustainable livelihoods, established by the ACC to monitor and ensure follow-up action in the implementation of the results of the thematic United Nations Conferences. UNCTAD also participates in the ACC bodies dealing with economic and social development. UNCTAD has brought to the attention of ACC and mobilized support for the implementation of system-wide initiatives for which UNCTAD is responsible. This is particularly the case with the Programme of Action on LDCs, including the Global Mid-term Review. Furthermore, UNCTAD seeks cooperative arrangements for the implementation of the outcomes of its own conferences. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD presented the results of UNCTAD IX to the October 1996 session of ACC.

71. In response to specific resolutions, from 1995 to 1996, the UNCTAD secretariat provided information to the General Assembly on its activities in

cooperating with relevant organizations in the United Nations system as follows[2]: ECOSOC res. 1990/85 on consumer protection; ECOSOC res. 1994/37 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; G.A. res. 48/180 on entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development; G.A. res. 49/139 on participation of volunteers in the activities of the United Nations in the fields of humanitarian relief rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development; and an inventory of possible post-conflict peace-building activities; G.A. res. 49/127 on international migration and development; G.A. res. 49/28 on law of the sea; G.A. res. 49/21A and 50/58E on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; G.A. res. 49/9 on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba; G.A. res. 49/106: Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy; G.A. res. 49/92: Declaration on International Economic Cooperation; G.A. res. 49/21M on special assistance to the Front Line States and other neighbouring States; G.A. res. 50/44: United Nations Decade of International Law.

72. UNCTAD contributes actively to United Nations training programmes run by the ILO Training Centre in Turin. A senior UNCTAD staff member has been made available to the centre to help launch the United Nations Staff College.

73. UNCTAD also plays a leading role in cooperative training and human resource development through an inter-agency "TRAIN-X" programme, which includes ITU, UNDP, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

(iv) Cooperation with selected regional and subregional organizations

74. Within the framework of cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, and as requested in various resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the UNCTAD secretariat periodically submits information on activities it has carried out in the implementation of these resolutions and decisions for inclusion in the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. These activities include cooperation with the following organizations and their member States:

75. **Organization of American States (OAS) (G.A. resolutions 49/450 and 49/5).** The UNCTAD secretariat contributed a background paper to the third General Meeting between representatives of the United Nations System and the Organization of American States on a range of UNCTAD activities. Technical assistance was also provided from databases in trade in goods and services; trade in services; competition policies; trade and environment and investment regimes.

76. **Organization of African Unity (OAU) (G.A. res. 49/64 and 50/158).** The UNCTAD secretariat has cooperated with OAU in the following ways: provision of assistance to the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic

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2. The relevant resolutions are mentioned so that reference may be made to the reports of the United Nations Secretary-General for more detailed information.

Community; provision of a progress report and evaluation on UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of UN-NADAF; studies on commodity price risk management; preparation of a cooperation agreement on technical assistance to be extended to African countries in various fields of international trade; and organization of a round-table on trade, economic cooperation and investment between African and Arab countries for public and private business sectors. UNCTAD also cooperates with OAU through its technical assistance projects for the sub-sectoral working group of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa; through its TRAINMAR programme; and through a series of courses on multimodal transport.

77. **League of Arab States (LAS) (G.A. res. 49/14 and 50/16)**. Cooperation between UNCTAD and the LAS takes place in the following ways: an intersectoral project on prospects for the sustained development of the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; formulation and implementation of a programme on Arab states' economy and trade; a regional symposium on the evaluation of the implications of the Uruguay Round for Arab countries (organized in cooperation with WTO); and the holding of Round Tables on the expansion of trade and economic cooperation and investment between African and Arab countries. Regular consultations take place between UNCTAD and LAS on assistance to Arab countries on the Uruguay Round and the provision of technical assistance for the expansion of Arab trade. LAS will be involved in the implementation of the UNCTAD/UNDP Arab States Economic Integration and Trade Programme.

78. **Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) (G.A. res. 49/15 and 50/17)**. UNCTAD cooperates with the OIC in the following areas: trade, finance and transit transport issues; assistance in the design and implementation of privatization and enterprise development meetings, principally for the Central Asian republics; joint studies on, for example, trade flows and shipping opportunities among Islamic countries. UNCTAD and the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade are cooperating on Uruguay Round/WTO issues. Consultations have taken place with the **Islamic Development Bank** on activities related to various aspects of the Uruguay Round, including accession to the WTO.

79. **Southern African Development Community (SADC) (G.A. res. 48/173 and 49/21M)**: Cooperation has been undertaken in the following areas: the UNCTAD secretariat assisted in the drafting of the draft protocol on trade cooperation. Advisory and technical support was provided during the initial stages of SADC's endeavour to elaborate a trade protocol to the SADC Treaty and assistance was provided to analyze and develop strategic action for SADC member States in view of the results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the emerging international trading system.

80. **Latin American Economic System (SELA) (G.A. res. 49/6)**. Collaboration takes place in the following areas: the execution of the LATINTRADE project (its objective is to strengthen the negotiating capacities of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, to enable them to participate more effectively in trade agreements), and through the Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS).

81. **Caribbean Community (CARICOM) (G.A. res. 49/141)**. During a recent UNCTAD mission to the CARICOM secretariat, discussions were initiated on the feasibility of an UNCTAD-CARICOM framework agreement. UNCTAD has already collaborated with member States of CARICOM in the following areas: the establishment of Trade Points; TRAINFORTRADE; the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS); enhancing

enterprise development, UNCTAD's EMPRETEC project; assistance to customs automation (ASYCUDA); a high-level panel on island developing countries; assistance to commodity market management; assistance to the regional integration process; a study on the implications of the Uruguay Round for the subregion; and assistance to island developing countries.

82. **Other regional and subregional organizations.** UNCTAD cooperates with a number of other regional and subregional organizations, including: **SIECA**, **ALADI**, the **Andean Group**, **MERCOSUR**, **COMESA**, **ECOWAS**, **UDEAC**, **ASEAN**, **SARC**, and the Forum Secretariat. Details of this cooperation vary from organization to organization, but in general cooperation is focused on matters relating to trade (including the exchange of data on trade control measures), investment, and transport (including multimodal transport).

(v) Non-United Nations organizations

83. **OECD.** The Secretary-General of UNCTAD visited Paris in May 1996 and addressed the OECD Council continuing the practice of his predecessor in briefing OECD member States prior to the holding of the organization's quadrennial Conference. High-level meetings have been held to discuss a more institutional basis for future cooperation, especially in areas involving relations with developing countries. The Deputy Secretary-General of OECD took part in the High-Level Segment on Investment of the 1996 Trade and Development Board. There has also been cooperation in the area of privatization, TRAINS, trade and the environment and investment. Regular contact is maintained with OECD's Development Assistance Committee.

84. **World Customs Organization (WCO).** UNCTAD cooperates closely with the WCO in the areas of customs techniques, classification, the Customs Reform and Modernization Programme (CRM), and the harmonization of non-preferential rules of origin. For the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency (UNISTE), the WCO prepared the guidelines and recommendations on customs. A tripartite meeting of senior staff members of the WCO, the WTO and the UNCTAD secretariats, with the objective of enhancing cooperation in the areas of trade facilitation, trade compliance and trade efficiency, is expected to take place in early 1997. The meeting is expected to help avoid overlapping between the new activities undertaken by WTO and existing UNCTAD and WCO work programmes. A coordinated approach between the three organizations would be particularly useful in the areas of customs reforms and standardization which could lead to a significant reduction of international trade transaction costs.

85. **International Organization for Migration (IOM).** Cooperation has taken place on investment-related issues. A joint IOM/UNCTAD study entitled "Foreign Direct Investment, Trade, Aid, and Migration" was released in November 1996.

86. **International Organization for Standardization (ISO).** UNCTAD is a liaison organization in the technical committee 207 which is in charge of developing the Series 14,000 on environmental management. It participates in ISO/TC104 (the technical committee on freight containers) on matters concerning international standards on container dimensions and ratings.

87. **Regional Development Banks.** UNCTAD cooperates on a regular and ongoing basis with the regional development banks. There are strong ties with the **Inter-**

American Development Bank (IDB), with which cooperation on TRAINS and the regional project LATINTRADE takes place. Moreover, Latin American borrowers have used IDB loans to finance UNCTAD technical assistance, including ASYCUDA and DMFAS. The **Asian Development Bank** is also financing ASYCUDA and DMFAS. The **African Development Bank** is financing DMFAS. UNCTAD participates in seminars organized by the **Islamic Development Bank** on the impact of the Uruguay Round.

88. As the originator of the **Common Fund for Commodities**, UNCTAD has since its inception in 1989 had a privileged relationship with that body, participating actively in both its Executive Board meetings and in analytical work related to both the First and Second Accounts of the Fund. An UNCTAD staff member also sits on the Fund's Consultative Committee which examines projects submitted for Second Account financing. A draft MOU with the Fund is currently being negotiated.

89. **European Commission.** The European Commission has become a major donor for UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities. UNCTAD and the European Commission carried out and published in 1996 a joint study on European Union Foreign Direct Investment in Asia.

(vi) Professional bodies and associations and non-governmental organizations

90. UNCTAD also maintains close relations with, and participates as required in meetings of, a wide range of **international commodity bodies**, including the organizations for cocoa, jute, natural rubber, olive oil, sugar, tropical timber; the International Cotton Advisory Committee; and the study groups for copper, lead and zinc, and nickel. Particularly intensive cooperation has been required over the past 18 months in UNCTAD's assistance to the International Natural Rubber Organization in renegotiating its agreement and ensuring its effective entry-into-force. UNCTAD has also been assisting the International Nuts Council and the International Chromium Development Association in their efforts to establish international agreements for their commodities. All these activities are expected to continue and in some cases intensify over the medium-term future.

91. **Research and Training institutions.** UNCTAD cooperates with a large number of research and training institutions. In addition to WIDER of the UNU, they include universities, business schools, training institutions, and research bodies from all parts of the world.

92. **NGOs.** UNCTAD's formal relations with NGOs are governed by article XV, rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board as well as decision 43 (VII) of the Board. UNCTAD officially recognizes three categories of NGOs: the general category, which refers to international NGOs that engage in activities related to the majority of UNCTAD's issues; the special category covers those NGOs that have special competence in one or two areas of UNCTAD's involvement; the third category covers national NGOs. These are placed on the Register. The number of NGOs included in the list now totals 174: 87 in the General Category and 87 in the Special Category. There are now seven national organizations included in the Register.

93. Collaboration with the NGO community is mainly at the level of information, advocacy and public awareness raising. Since 1988, regular UNCTAD/NGO consultations have been held, the last one being in November 1995 in preparation for UNCTAD IX. For the first time in UNCTAD's history, an NGO parallel event took

place during UNCTAD IX in South Africa. It was attended by around 80 NGOs. The final decision of the Conference with respect to the involvement of NGOs in UNCTAD's activities is included in paragraphs 117, 118 and 119 of the Midrand Declaration.

94. In accordance with paragraph 97(ii) of the Final document of UNCTAD IX concerning consumer protection, UNCTAD has intensified its cooperation with consumer organizations, particularly **Consumers International** with which the cooperation will be formulated in the near futures.

95. **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).** The ICC actively assisted in the preparation and delivery of the High Level Segment on Investment of the Board in October 1996. Close cooperation in transport issues is evidenced by the UNCTAD/ICC Rules for Multimodal Transport (MT) documents.

96. **International Federation of Freight Forwarding Associations (FIATA).** In addition to attending UNCTAD meetings (and vice-versa), FIATA has been involved in the formulation of the UNCTAD/ICC Rules for MT documents and in the elaboration of TRAINMAR training material on freight forwarding.

97. **International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH)** has given strong support to the four intergovernmental meetings of port experts organized by UNCTAD and has contributed since 1983 to the UNCTAD series of Monographs on Port Management.

98. **American Association of Port Authorities (APAA).** UNCTAD actively cooperates through an exchange of information with the AAPA, an association for ports from the Americas (24 countries, and also with the two regional port associations, **the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA)** and with the **Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA)**.

99. **Latin American Federation of Freight Forwarding associations (ALACAT)** collaborates with UNCTAD in the promotion of international multimodal transport in Latin America.

100. **World Trade Centers Association.** There has been cooperation between UNCTAD and the WTCA (and its members) in the establishment of Trade Points.

101. **Trade Unions.** UNCTAD maintains regular contacts with trade union representatives and organizes every year in June a Consultation with trade union movements.

102. **Private Sector.** Although this report is largely concerned with cooperation with other organizations, it would not be complete without a reference to UNCTAD's cooperation with the business community. This extensive collaboration takes a variety of different forms, including exchanging information, participating in meetings including those of certain commodity/producers/consumers groups contributing to expert groups, and technical assistance activities. Examples of this cooperation include the private sector contribution to the High Level Segment on Investment of the Board in October 1996; the Africa Connect conference held in parallel to UNCTAD IX; corporate data used in the preparation of the World Investment Report; and the involvement of numerous private sector actors in the Global Trade Point Network.

ANNEXES

Annex I

SELECTED MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING */

- Memorándum de Entendimiento entre la Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI) y la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD) sobre un Programa para la Facilitación del Transporte y el Comercio, (24 October 1996).

- Joint Communiqué between the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director-General of UNIDO, 25 July 1996.

- Joint Communiqué between the Director-General of UNIDO and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, 3 April 1996.

- Memorandum of Understanding regarding TRAINS for the Americas between the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), April 1996.

- Memorándum de Entendimiento entre la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI) y la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD), (16 October 1995).

- Cooperation Arrangements on EMPRETEC (from Spanish Empresa y Técnologia) between the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 8 and 25 May 1995.

- Programme régional: "Interactive TRAINS" mémorandum d'accord relatif à la Base de Données des Mesures de Réglementation Commerciale entre l'Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale (UDEAC) et la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement (CNUCED), (November 1994).

- Technical Co-operation Agreement between UNCTAD and the Eastern Southern African initiative on debt and reserves management, 27 September 1994.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic Commission for Europe on the joint unit between the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Economic Commission for Europe, 27 July 1994.

- Cooperation Agreement between the Commonwealth of Independent States and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 5 May 1994.

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*/ These memoranda may be obtained from the secretariat upon request.

- Agreement between the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System, 6 April 1994.

- Memorándum de Entendimiento entre la Secretaría Permanente del Tratado General de Integración Económica Centroamericana (SIECA) y la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD), (March, April 1993).

- Memorandum of Understanding regarding Database on Trade Control Measures between the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 5 February 1993.

- Mémorandum d'accord relatif a la Base de Données des Mesures de Réglementation Commerciale entre l'Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA) et la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement (CNUCED), 1 February 1993.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Tariff Department of the Customs General Administration of China and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 24 September and 23 October 1992.

- Memorando de Entendimiento entre la Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI) y la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD), December 1991.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ibero-American Association of Chambers of Commerce (AICO) and the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 30 October 1989.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Federation of Development Financing Institutions, 28 June 1988.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Research Centre for Co-operation with Developing Countries, Ljubljana, 7 July 1987.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), 2 May 1985.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Research Center for Co-operation with Developing Countries, 28 January 1983.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Center for Economic and Social Studies for the Third World, 1 June 1982.

- Joint Statement on Arrangements and Procedures for Consultation between the Secretariat of IMO and UNCTAD in relation to work on certain Maritime Law Subjects, 2 March 1983.

- Memorando de Entendimiento entre la Junta del Acuerdo de Cartagena (JUNTA) y la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD) (signed but no date).

- Accord-cadre de Coopération entre le Secrétariat Général de la Communauté Economique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le secrétariat de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement.

- Memorandum of Understanding regarding UNCTAD-World Bank Cooperation Project on the further development of the SMART software and its integration into the TRAINS system between the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (signed but no date).

Annex II

AGREEMENTS WITH THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

1. On 29 September, 1995, an exchange of identical letters between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Director-General of WTO established a global arrangement for cooperation between the two organizations. As noted in the Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on Strengthening international organizations in the area of multilateral trade (A/51/331), Para. 4 (b) "relations include: (i) the provision and exchange of relevant information; (ii) reciprocal representation in accordance with the decisions of the competent bodies of the respective organizations; (iii) participation of WTO in the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary bodies; and (iv) cooperation between secretariats, including in the statistical area, and administrative matters." Para 4(c) states: "The conclusion that specific arrangements for cooperation between UNCTAD and WTO, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Council of WTO, will be pursued by the two secretariats within the overall framework set out above, and in the light of relevant decisions of the Trade and Development Board, as well as General Assembly resolution 49/97."

2. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director-General of WTO met on 7 November, 1995, and agreed on the following institutional basis of cooperation:

- Meetings between UNCTAD and the WTO, chaired jointly by the two heads, will take place every six months;

- Working relations between the two organizations will be improved at all levels in areas such as research, trade and investment, trade and competition, trade and the environment, and trade and development. Participation by the two heads in meetings of each other's organizations will take place as appropriate in these areas;

- The two organizations will work towards greater complementarity in technical cooperation -- not only between the WTO, UNCTAD and the ITC, but also with other agencies, whether in the UN System, the Bretton Woods Institutions, or regional bodies. The aim is to improve coordination across the board and make better use of resources;

- High priority will be given to Africa in this cooperation. Measures to help Least Developed Countries, and African countries in particular, increase their export-orientated production and improve the diversification of their export production and markets must be a key part of this campaign. UNCTAD and the WTO will work closely together, and with other relevant organizations, with the aim of producing urgently an action plan for Africa.

3. At the first regular meeting between the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director-General of the WTO on 11 January, 1996, agreement was reached on the following areas of cooperation by the two secretariats:

- Preparation of a joint paper, with the participation of ITC, on (a) strengthening developing countries' capacity to participate in the

multilateral trading system, and (b) identifying new trading opportunities for developing countries and the means by which they could exploit them;

- creation of a framework for technical cooperation for Africa, with activities largely at the national level;

- identification of concrete cooperative efforts, and in some cases joint actions, in the areas of (a) trade in services, (b) trade and environment, and(c) countries in accession to the WTO.

Annex III

JOINT COMMUNIQUE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNIDO

1. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director-General of UNIDO met at UNIDO Headquarters in Vienna on July 25 to pursue their discussion on cooperation between the two organizations, as predicated in their Joint Communiqué of 3 April 1996. The meeting reviewed the decisions of the sixth session of the General Conference of UNIDO and the outcome of UNCTAD IX, particularly the call for more effective coordination and complementarity of United Nations organizations, and it identified areas of further cooperation between UNCTAD and UNIDO. The meeting exemplified the positive spirit of partnership between sister organizations. Mr. Ricupero and Mr. de Maria y Campos reiterated their commitment to continue exploring new avenues for enhanced cooperation between UNCTAD and UNIDO. In executing its part, UNCTAD will consult and collaborate as necessary with the International Trade Centre.

2. As a contribution to the United Nations system-wide Special Initiative for Africa, and the UNIDO promoted Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, they agreed to focus their cooperation in particular on the launching of a joint programme designed to help African countries improve the environment for investment flows, to strengthen indigenous capacities to attract investment, and to enhance trade, investment, enterprise and technological cooperation among African countries and between Africa and other regions. These efforts, which will build on the complementary roles, expertise and concrete work undertaken by the two organizations in Africa, will include:

- a pilot project to prepare country profiles for investment in selected African countries;

- organizing international business conferences for African countries;

- seeking to strengthen ties between the private sectors of African countries and between Africa and other regions, to promote the dissemination of scientific and technical information an to harness information technology for development purposes.

3. Mr. Ricupero and Mr. de Maria y Campos also agreed, as a matter of priority, to undertake coordinated efforts to strengthen investment promotion in the Least Developed Countries. As a first step in this direction, the two institutions will take the lead in cosponsoring with other interested organizations a pilot seminar on the mobilization of the private sector, in order to encourage foreign investment flows towards the LDCs.

4. Mr. Ricupero and Mr. de Maria y Campos requested their respective staff to urgently finalize the details of these programmes.

5. The above initiatives in LDCs and Africa are the beginning of a phased extension of cooperative efforts. The heads of the two organizations, having noted existing cooperation in the areas of investment, technology and enterprise development, agree to undertake additional efforts in the following areas:

- work aimed at assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in monitoring foreign investment through the further development of an effective monitoring system;

- work aimed at assessing the impact on the industrial structure of developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the implementation of recent trade agreements;

- assistance to interested Governments in the formulation and implementation of country-specific enterprise development projects;

- mutual cooperation as regards the activities of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA); and UNIDO'S Programme of Investment Promotion Fora; UNCTAD's policy reviews of investment, and of science, technology and innovation; UNIDO's industrial policy reviews; and the dissemination of UNCTAD's World Investment Report and UNIDO's Industrial Development Global Report.

6. Mr. Ricupero and Mr. de Maria y Campos agreed to hold their next annual meeting to review progress and to identify areas and activities ripe for new cooperation initiatives, in Geneva in July 1997. This will be preceded by informal consultations at the working level of senior staff. As stated in the Joint Communiqué of April 1996, these joint endeavours are intended to enhance the contribution both organizations can make towards promoting industrialization and integrating developing countries and countries in transition into the world trade system and the world economy.